(c) The Jhansi Fort was protected as a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 in 1986. Conservation works, based upon periodic inspections, as per normal practice, are taken up according to the assessed need of the monument and availability of resources.

The ASI has approved the proposal of Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department to flood light the monument.

Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira

1266. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2600th birth centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira is to be celebrated by the Government;

(b) if so, whether Government has formed an All India Committee in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are considering to bring out coins of rupees 1, 2 and 5 having Dhyan Mudra of Bhagwan Mahavira as a part of 2600th birth centenary celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The proposal to celebrate the 2600th Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira and to set up a National Committee in this regard is under consideration of the Government. However, the Centenary celebrations start only from 16th April, 2001.

(c) This is to be considered by the Committee as and when set up.

World Heritage Sites

1267. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Asian Age (Delhi-Age) dated 23rd December, 1999, captioned, "India misses the mark with World Heritage Sites";

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to compete in the matter of World Heritage, indicating the heritage sites/items with respect to which documentation has been put up for the purpose?